

I Claim:

- Sub 917
1. A backing plate comprising:
 abutment plate means for resisting braking forces, and
 shielding plate means for shielding brake components from dust and dirt and reducing noise and vibrations.
 2. A backing plate according to claim 1 wherein said shielding means is made of damped steel.
 3. A backing plate according to claim 2 wherein said damped steel comprises outer and inner layers of steel and an inner layer of vibration dampening material, said layers of steel being of approximately equal thickness.
 4. A backing plate comprising an abutment plate having a first part configured to be attached to an axle of a vehicle and a second part configured to resist braking forces and a shielding plate configured to shield brake components and made of a material that dampens noise and vibrations.
 5. A backing plate according to claim 4 wherein said material is damped steel.
 - Sub 927 6. A backing plate according to claim 5 wherein said damped steel comprises first and second layers of steel of approximately equal thickness.
 7. A backing plate according to claim 4 wherein said abutment plate is made of steel.
 8. A backing plate according to claim 7 wherein said material is damped steel.
 - Sub 937 9. A shielding plate comprising a sheet of damped steel configured to be attached to a vehicle and to protect brake components from dust and dirt.
 10. A shielding plate according to claim 9 wherein said brake components are components of a drum brake.

0908193-11901
 1006117-0003

11. A shielding plate according to claim 10 in further combination with an abutment plate configured to engage brake shoes and to resist braking forces applied by said brake shoes.

Sub
947 12. A shielding plate according to claim 11 wherein said damped steel comprises first and second layers of steel on opposite sides of a dampening material, said first and second layers having approximately equal thickness.

add as 7

[illegible]